



Department of Defense

DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 4715.12

July 12, 2004

Certified Current as of April 24, 2007

Incorporating Change 1, August 31, 2018

USD(A&S)

SUBJECT: Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Operational Ranges Outside the United States

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 4715.12, "Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Department of Defense Active and Inactive Ranges Outside the United States," August 17, 1999 (hereby canceled)
 - (b) DoD Directive 4715.01E, "Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH)," March 19, 2005
 - (c) DoD Directive 6055.9E, "Department of Defense (DoD) Explosives Safety Management and the DoD Explosives Board (DDESB)," August 19, 2005
 - (d) DoD Directive 4715.11, "Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Operational Ranges within the United States," May 10, 2004
 - (e) through (m), see enclosure 1

1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive reissues reference (a), updates established policies, and assigns responsibilities under references (b) and (c) for:

1.1. Sustainable use and management of operational ranges located outside the United States.

1.2. The protection of Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and the public from explosive hazards on operational ranges located outside the United States.

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive applies to:

2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components").

2.2. All operational ranges located outside the United States.

2.2.1. For operational ranges that a non-DoD Component (to include a foreign government) owns, this Directive applies subject to the terms of any agreement with the owner for the leasing or operation of the range. (The DoD Components shall try to ensure that future agreements are consistent with this Directive and provide for non-DoD users to proportionally reimburse the DoD Component for the costs of complying with this Directive.)

2.2.2. The DoD Component having real property accountability for the range is responsible for compliance with this Directive. A written agreement shall document the responsibilities of the parties for compliance with this Directive in cases where a range is operated by another DoD Component.

2.3. This Directive does not apply to DoD operational ranges located within the United States. For such ranges, consult DoD Directive 4715.11 (reference (d)).

2.4. This Directive does not apply to indoor ranges.

3. DEFINITIONS

The terms used in this Directive are defined in enclosure 2. Other terms not defined may be found in 10 U.S.C. 101 (reference (e)).

4. POLICY

It is DoD policy to:

4.1. Use and manage DoD operational ranges in a manner that supports national security objectives and maintains the high state of operational readiness essential to the U.S. Armed Forces, consistent with DoD Directive 3200.15 (reference (f)).

4.2. Ensure the long-term viability of DoD operational ranges while protecting human health and safety, and the environment.

4.3. Limit, to the extent practical, the potential for explosives mishaps and the damaging effects of such to personnel, operational capability, property, and the environment.

4.4. Resolve conflicts between explosives safety and other requirements with the objective of minimizing explosives hazards.

4.5. Design and use ranges and munitions to minimize potential explosives hazards and harmful environmental impacts and promote resource recovery and recycling, to the extent practical.

4.6. Operate ranges in compliance with all requirements of international agreements to which the United States is party and respect the sovereignty of the host nation. DoD Directive 5530.3 (reference (g)) establishes procedures concerning resolution of questions of compliance by parties to international agreements.

4.7. Enhance the ability to prevent or respond to a release or substantial threat of a release of munitions constituents from an operational range to off-range areas.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, in coordination with similar responsibilities under reference (d), shall:

5.1.1. Take overall OSD responsibility for safety, explosives safety (through the Chair, Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board), environmental and technology policies, and oversight related to the implementation of this Directive.

5.1.2. Develop acquisition plans, strategies, guidance, and assessments to implement this Directive.

5.1.3. Ensure that research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) programs address technology requirements to enhance sustainable range management, safety, health, and environmental aspects of this policy.

5.1.4. Act as the OSD proponent for operational range clearance technology requirements and coordinate such requirements with the Director, Test Systems Engineering and Evaluation.

5.1.5. Coordinate DoD Component efforts to assess the environmental impacts of munitions use on operational ranges.

5.1.6. Provide guidance to enhance the DoD Components' ability to prevent or respond to a release or substantial threat of a release of munitions constituents from an operational range to off-range areas.

5.2. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall, consistent with international agreements, provide guidance to ensure DoD training ranges meet the operational requirements necessary to support national security objectives and maintain the high state of operational readiness essential to the U.S. Armed Forces.

5.3. The Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall provide financial management policy regarding range management activities in accordance with DoD 7000.14-R (reference (h)).

5.4. The Head of each DoD Component shall:

5.4.1. Establish the necessary procedures for ensuring that operational ranges used by the Component comply with this Directive and include sustainable range management goals in accordance with reference (f) in long-term planning efforts.

5.4.2. Establish and maintain an inventory of operational ranges used by the Component consistent with the guidance provided by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment.

5.4.3. Establish and implement procedures to assess the environmental impacts of munitions use on operational ranges.

5.4.4. Ensure that required management plans at the installation or responsible activity level include planning for sustainable range use and are reviewed or updated at least every 5 years. Management plans for new ranges shall be in place prior to utilization of the range. This planning shall be integrated with other installation planning processes and shall address at a minimum: long-term sustainable use; hydrology and hydrogeology; management procedures and record-keeping requirements; standards; monitoring; host-nation coordination, public outreach and public participation programs, if required/allowed; technology requirements to ensure sustainable range management; and resources required.

5.4.5. Establish procedures for operational range clearance operations to permit the sustainable safe use of operational ranges for their intended purpose and mission. The frequency of, and degree to which, range clearance operations shall be conducted shall consider, at a minimum, the safety hazards of clearance, each range's intended use, and the quantities and types of munitions expended on that range.

5.4.6. Restrict access to operational ranges, especially impact areas and other areas known or suspected of containing unexploded ordnance (UXO).

5.4.7. Take appropriate action to prevent unauthorized access to operational ranges. Such actions include establishing access controls (e.g., posting UXO hazard-warning signs that are either multi-lingual, in English and the local language(s), or pictograms; fencing the area; establishing roving security patrols) and asking the host nation to provide public notifications of potential explosives hazards.

5.4.8. Ensure individuals authorized access to ranges are provided appropriate explosives safety training prior to entering the range. The DoD Components shall develop guidelines to determine when individuals authorized access to ranges shall be escorted.

5.4.9. Ensure range and range operations comply with the final governing standards (FGS) specific to that host nation. In the absence of FGS, the range and range operations must comply with the Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document and DoD Instruction 4715.5 (reference (i)) or environmental annexes incorporated into operation plans (OPLANS) or operation orders (OPORDS), as applicable.

5.4.10. Consult with and provide appropriate information to the host nation regarding the compatible uses of property located near ranges.

5.4.11. For ranges, maintain permanent records of:

5.4.11.1. All military munitions expended, including an estimated dud rate, by type, quantity, location, and using organization.

5.4.11.2. All operational range clearance operations or explosive ordnance disposal incidents conducted on an operational range.

5.4.11.3. The coordinates of all areas known or suspected of containing UXO. (Installation master plans or range maps shall be used to document such areas.)

5.4.11.4. Environmental assessment results.

5.4.12. Minimize the use on ranges, including for RDT&E, of munitions that contain sub-munitions or depleted uranium (DU) to that required to support national security objectives.

5.4.12.1. For sub-munitions, restrict such use to specifically designated target or impact areas.

5.4.12.2. For DU, restrict such use to specifically designated target or impact areas that have been specifically approved by a competent authority designated by the host nation. Before requesting such approval, the DoD Components should consult with the Environmental Executive Agent designated for the host nation or with the Combatant Commander, if no Environmental Executive Agent exists. When possible, DU shall be fired into containment structures, and high-explosives munitions shall not be fired into the same area as DU.

5.4.12.3. When practical, establish sole-use target or impact areas to segregate munitions that contain sub-munitions or DU from other munitions.

5.4.13. To the extent practical, use targets on operational ranges that do not contain DU armor or hazardous materials (e.g., petroleum, oils, lubricants, radium dials, batteries).

5.4.14. Conduct a hazard assessment prior to any range clearance operation at ranges, including range clearance that is an integral part of a test or training plan. This assessment shall include, at a minimum, rationale for the clearance, the number of personnel involved, support requirements, the types of munitions anticipated to be encountered and expected UXO contamination levels.

5.4.15. Establish safe and practical methods for recycling or disposing of range residues in accordance with DoD 4160.21-M (reference (j)). Ensure that material potentially presenting an explosive hazard is managed in a manner that supports operational readiness and mission requirements and complies with explosives safety standards and host-nation environmental requirements.

5.4.16. Prohibit controlled burning of vegetation as a method of range clearance. Controlled burns may be used to control dense brush or undergrowth or clear a range area of vegetation to make range clearance operations safe for personnel conducting the clearance.

5.4.17. Assess or review prior assessments of the hydrology and hydrogeology of ranges and how the ranges are being or have been used. Where such assessments create a reasonable belief that munitions constituents may migrate off an operational range, conduct an additional, appropriate assessment, including testing and analysis, as necessary, to determine whether a release or substantial threat of a release of munitions constituents from an operational range to off-range areas has occurred or is about to occur.

5.4.18. Notify DoD and host-nation employees, installation residents, and the host nation, as appropriate, of range operations that may present an environmental or explosive hazard potentially affecting them.

5.4.19. Respond promptly to protect personnel and property from such hazards on the installation and with host-nation permission, off the installation.

5.4.20. Ensure communication of operational range issues affecting or having the potential to affect the surrounding communities (e.g., controlled burns, access controls, institutional controls) to the host nation. The DoD Components may participate in public education programs intended for host-nation personnel only with the host nation's permission.

5.4.21. Before changing the use of an operational range area, conduct appropriate range clearance operations, consistent with the proposed future use of the area.

5.4.22. Respond in accordance with the final governing standards (FGS) specific to that host nation and DoD Instruction 4715.8 (reference (k)) to a release or substantial threat of a release of munitions constituents located on or emanating from an operational range. In the absence of FGS, the response must comply with the Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document or environmental annexes incorporated into OPLANS or OPORDS, as applicable.

5.4.23. Respond to explosives safety risks in accordance with DoD 6055.9-STD (reference (l)), except when an applicable international agreement, to include a Status of Forces Agreement, makes compliance with more restrictive local standards mandatory.

5.5. The Commanders of the Combatant Commands, through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall for DoD operational ranges within their areas of responsibility (AORs):


5.5.1. Coordinate and approve overall guidance implementing this Directive within their geographic AORs, as necessary to administer their mission.

5.5.2. Resolve disputes between a DoD Component and the Environmental Executive Agent designated for the host nation per reference (i) on country-specific environmental policies.

6. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 1. This change reassigns the office of primary responsibility for this Directive to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment in accordance with the July 13, 2018 Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum (reference (m)).

7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.



Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 2

- E1. References, continued
- E2. Definitions

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) Section 101 of title 10, United States Code
- (f) DoD Directive 3200.15, "Sustainment of Ranges and Operating Areas (OPAREAs)," January 10, 2003
- (g) DoD Directive 5530.3, "International Agreements," June 11, 1987
- (h) DoD 7000.14-R, "DoD Financial Management Regulations (FMRs)," November 15, 1992, Volume 11A and Volume 11B, current edition
- (i) DoD Instruction 4715.5, "Management of Environmental Compliance at Overseas Installations," April 22, 1996
- (j) DoD 4160.21-M, "Defense Materiel Disposition Manual" August 18, 1997
- (k) DoD Instruction 4715.8, "Environmental Remediation for DoD Activities Overseas," February 2, 1998
- (l) DoD 6055.9-STD, "DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards," October 5, 2004
- (m) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Establishment of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment," July 13, 2018

E2. ENCLOSURE 2

DEFINITIONS

E2.1.1. Explosives Mishap. An accident or unexpected event involving military munitions.

E2.1.2. Explosives Safety. A condition where operational capability and readiness, personnel, property, and the environment are protected from the unacceptable risk of a mishap involving military munitions.

E2.1.3. Impact Area. The identified area within a range intended to capture or contain ammunition, munitions, or explosives and resulting debris, fragments, and components from various weapon system employments.

E2.1.4. Operational Range. A range that is under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Secretary of Defense, and:

E2.1.4.1. Is used for range activities; or

E2.1.4.2. Although not currently being used for range activities, that is still considered by the Secretary to be a range and has not been put to a new use that is incompatible with range activities.

E2.1.5. Sub-munition. Any munition that, to perform its task, separates from a parent munition.

E2.1.6. Sustainable Range Management. Management of a DoD range in a manner that:

E2.1.6.1. Supports national security objectives and maintains the operational readiness of the U.S. Armed Forces; and

E2.1.6.2. Ensures the long-term viability of DoD ranges while protecting human health and the environment.

E2.1.7. United States. The 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Island, Navassa Island, Palmyra Island, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Wake Island, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction, and associated navigable waters, contiguous zones, and ocean waters of which the natural resources are under the exclusive management authority of the United States.